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Original Communications.

GATEWAY OF LAMBETH PALACE, FROM THE COURT-YARD.

THE cut given above is a specimen of what can be effected by glyphography, a new science connected with the arts. As in these times nothing can be endured with a commonplace English name, two Greek words relating to engraving and drawing have been put in requisition to furnish the euphonious term glyphography, the merit of which consists in producing, by the same act, drawing and engraving, and thus effecting by one act what till now could only be accomplished by two operations.

To do this a piece of copper-plate, such as is used for engraving, is stained black on one side, over which a very thin layer of white opaque composition, resembling wax both in quality and appearance, is spread. Various sorts of points are then used, so as to remove a portion of the white. The black is consequently left exposed,

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and the contrast this gives to the white composition enables the artist to see as on paper the effect at once. Care must be taken to ascertain that no dirt or dust interferes with the drawing, which is then brought in contact with a substance having a chemical attraction or affinity for the remaining portions of the composition, whereby they may be heightened *ad libitum*. It is necessary that the printing surfaces of a block should project in such relief from the block itself as shall prevent the inking-roller touching the interstices of the same while passing over them. The depth of those parts is formed by the remaining portions of the white composition on the plate, analogous to which must be the depth on the block, the latter being, in fact, a cast of the former. The drawing so prepared is next placed in a trough, and submitted to the action of a galvanic battery, by means of which copper is deposited in the indentations, and, continuing the supply, it gradually spreads itself over the whole surface

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of the composition until a sufficiently thick plate of copper is obtained; which, on being separated from the first, will be found to present an exact fac-simile of the drawing.

It is thus that the representation of the gateway of Lambeth Palace, which appears in our present number, was prepared for the printer. On the accuracy of the representation we need not dwell; but it may not be impertinent to offer a few words on the building itself. It is, as most of the inhabitants of London know, one of the palaces of the Archbishop of Canterbury, situate on the eastern bank of the Thames; it is a large irregular pile, raised at various periods, according to the tastes, means, and liberality of its once potent occupants. The first archbishop who resided at Lambeth was Stephen Langton. He occupied the ancient manor house. In 1631 Archbishop Boniface obtained a bull from Pope Urban IV for disposing of the fourth part of the offerings made at Becket's tomb to pious uses, and had leave to rebuild his house in a fit place at Lambeth. He is believed to have been the founder of the present palace. It was gradually improved and enlarged by succeeding archbishops, most of whom made it the chief place of their residence. In 1321 Archbishop Reynolds made considerable repairs in the great chapel, the almonry, "my lord's chamber, chamber next the wall," the wardrobe next the chapel, another wardrobe, the kitchen, bake-house, and great gate at the entrance; as also the wharf-mill near the postern, and *wallum super Tamisiam*.

The palace was plundered in 1381 by the followers of Wat Tyler, who beheaded Archbishop Sudbury, then Lord Chancellor. Courtenay and Arundel are believed to have repaired the edifice, but Archbishop Chichely, who succeeded the last-named prelate, expended vast sums on it. The Lollard's Tower, at the west end of the chapel, was erected in the thirteenth of Henry VI, about the year 1434, on the site of an old stone building. The expenses of this tower are set down in the steward's accounts of those years, whereby it appears that the whole amounted to 27*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* Every foot in height of the tower, including the circumference, cost 13*s.* 4*d.* for the work; the iron used about the windows and doors weighed 1,322*l*bs. which, at 1*d.* per pound, cost 10*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* Three thousand bricks were used for stopping the windows between the chapel and that tower. The staircase is 88 feet high. On the west side appeared what was called a tabernacle or niche, in which was placed the image of St Thomas, which image cost 33*s.* 4*d.* The pay of a bricklayer was, at that time, with victuals, 4*d.* per day, without it, 5*d.* It would thence appear that the labourer was not badly paid, as he gained nearly

four times as much as was necessary for his subsistence. Supposing his lodging and rent to have been cheap in proportion, a prudent man would have had a surplus out of his daily earnings.

The interior of the tower presents a gloomy aspect. Staples and rings are seen to which the enthusiastic followers of Wickeliffe and "the good Lord Cobham" were chained preparatory to bringing them to the stake. The room in which the sufferers were confined is twelve feet long and nine broad, and is at the top of the tower. The windows are small and placed west and north. In the wainscot, which is of oak above an inch thick, the rings which have been mentioned are fixed; three on the south, four on the west, and one on the north side. The ceiling is of oak, and there is a small fireplace. Half sentences, names, and letters are cut on the wainscot with a knife. This, it is supposed, was done by the prisoners to pass away the melancholy hours which they spent in this dreary abode. The names inscribed are these—"John Sib, I. Jarle, John I. fysche, T. fown, Thon Werth, Chesham Doctor, H. Vil, John York Barboer, Alic Scandelar Thomas Bacar.

Archbishop Burton repaired, about the year 1490, the great tower next the gateway. In his last will Archbishop Warham states himself to have expended 30,000*l.* in repairing and beautifying his houses, and prays his successors, on that account, to forbear suit for dilapidations against his executors. Whether he had neglected Lambeth to improve other edifices, or had expended a portion of the 30,000*l.* on this palace, does not appear. His successor was Archbishop Crammer, who built the great parlour, and erected in the garden a curious summer-house, chiefly contrived by his chaplain, Dr John Poyntet, afterwards Bishop of Winchester. This edifice has disappeared. Cardinal Pole founded a gallery towards the east and other apartments. His motto, "*Estote prudentes sicut serpentes et innocentes sicut columbe*"—"Be prudent as serpents and innocent as doves," was painted on some of the windows, with the representation of a dove and a serpent. During the rebellion which brought Charles the First to the scaffold, Lambeth Palace was taken possession of by Colonel Scot, who, puritan as he was, is said to have converted the chapel into a dancing room, and, to render it fit for the purpose, he had the monument of Archbishop Parker pulled down as well as the hall erected by Chichely. The archbishop's corpse was torn from his tomb, the lead in which he had been encased was sold, and the remains buried beneath a dunghill. Juxon, at the Restoration, found the palace a heap of ruins. He rebuilt the great hall on the

ancient model, and with it restored the ancient usages. The archbishop with his particular friends sat at the high table; the steward, with the servants of the better rank, were at the table on the right-hand side; the almoner, the clergy, and others, occupied the table on the left. None but nobility or privy councillors were ordinarily admitted to the archbishop's table. All the meat that was not eaten was given to the poor, who used to assemble in crowds at the gate to receive it. The body of the Archbishop Parker, through the care of Archbishop Sancroft, was removed from the hole in which it had so indecently been thrown by the puritans, and another tomb erected to his memory, with this inscription—"The body of Matthew, the Archbishop, rests here at last."

Of the sacred and antiquarian treasures which this palace now contains, collected by the taste and liberality of successive prelates, much that is extremely interesting might be told, but the subject is too large to be entered upon in the present notice.

THE FEAST OF BLOOD, OR THE IMPERIAL EXECUTIONER.

MORE than dramatic horrors, studied carefully, prepared with deliberation, are connected with the reign of Peter the Great. If we acquit him of the murder of his son, still enough remains against him to prove that he was one of the most horrible monsters that ever wore the human form. To establish a character for vigour he deemed cruelty necessary, and rejoiced in the opportunities which offered for inflicting it. His efforts to create a navy, and otherwise to elevate Russia in the scale of nations, had already shed on his name a portion of that glory which, since he sunk into his grave, has dazzled the eyes of most observers, and caused his enormities to be in a great measure forgotten; he was looked up to with wonder, when the Strelitz, a powerful military body who were discontented with the changes they witnessed, seeing him move among them like an ordinary individual, lost all that awe for him which majesty should inspire. Their dissatisfaction increased, and at length they determined to assassinate the Czar. To accomplish their object it was resolved to fire Moscow, and when Peter should appear in the streets to give directions for checking the conflagration, they persuaded themselves it would be an easy thing, amidst the confusion which must prevail, to deprive their monarch of life.

One of the leaders of the Strelitz was named Sukanin, and it was at his house that the conspirators met, from time to time, to plan the assassination of Peter, and the destruction of the officers and foreign

soldiers who were attached to him. The night on which this fearful tragedy was to be performed arrived, and the Strelitz indulged in a joyous revel, to prepare them for the work of blood. Strong liquors, however, overpowered the intellects or the courage of some of the conspirators, or by some means they were corrupted. Whatever the cause, two of them found their way to the Czar and betrayed the whole plot.

A strange and terrible scene succeeded. Prompt in his determination, Peter wrote to the colonel of one of his regiments of guards, commanding him, with his soldiers, to surround and invest Sukanin's house that night. He meant to direct this to be done at the hour of ten, but in the hurry of the moment he wrote instead the word "*eleven*." This accident had nearly cost him dear.

Peter anxiously waited for the moment to arrive when the conspirators would be secured. It sounded, and he had no doubt, his orders obeyed, the mutinous Strelitz were in his power. In this conviction he proceeded, impatient to witness their dismay, to the house of their leader, Sukanin. On approaching it he remarked, with displeasure, that no guard had been stationed outside. Eager to reprove such negligence, he entered, and in a few minutes found himself alone and unarmed in the midst of a desperate band, who were then in the act of taking a solemn oath to put him to death.

He heard enough of what was passing before he made his appearance to understand how they were engaged, but to withdraw without being discovered, and of course pursued and butchered, was impossible. He therefore subdued all appearance of emotion, and calmly, and with an air of affability, joined the revellers.

"I heard joyous sounds," said he, "as I passed; I knew the voices, and thought I could not do better than join the Strelitz in their festivities. To their health I wish to drink. Fill me a glass."

The conspirators were amazed. At first they could hardly believe that Peter was alone, but being at length assured of that fact, their alarm subsided. They handed him wine, and affected great joy at seeing him among them. Beholding their enemy thus defenceless, their courage returned, which, sustained by the circling glass, was inflamed to exulting confidence. To fall upon him and extinguish him there, seemed to be a task of little difficulty. At first they conversed in whispers and signs, but the keen eye of Peter watched every movement, and put some restraint on their boldness. By degrees they began to manifest a feeling that in their judgment it was unnecessary longer to mask their design. Their murmured resolve, not to

lose the golden opportunity chance had thrown in their way, reached his ear. He was exasperated almost to madness by the supposed disobedience of the officer whom he had hoped to find had secured the malcontents by ten o'clock. An hour had nearly elapsed, and still he did not make his appearance. Alarm at the dangers which thickened around him, and rage at that neglect which he accused as the cause of a peril so great, Peter was embarrassed how to act, when one of the Strelitz, impatient for action, called to Sukanin in a low but expressive tone—

"Brother, it is time."

The look and manner of the speaker fully made known the real meaning of his speech. The Czar felt that it was thought the moment had arrived when his life might safely be assailed. A pause followed, and no answer was returned. Just then Peter heard a sound, which satisfied him of the near approach of his soldiers.

"It is time," repeated the man who had previously spoken.

"Not for you, villain, though it is for me," exclaimed Peter, and while he spoke he struck the Strelitz in the face with such force that the man instantly sunk to the ground. The guards rushed in, and the conspirators now finding that they had been betrayed—that their treason was known, threw themselves on their knees and implored their sovereign's mercy.

His heart was inaccessible to such an appeal. He ordered them all to be secured and put in chains, and the moment this had been done, he turned to his own commander, and giving him a violent blow in the face, demanded in a fierce tone why his orders had been neglected—why he had not been there an hour before, at the same time overwhelming him with the coarsest reproaches.

The colonel, as soon as he had recovered from an attack so little expected, produced the order which he had received, to prove that he had not been to blame. Peter saw with astonishment that he had written the word eleven instead of the hour he meant to name. A feeling of rude generosity prompted him to embrace the officer, to kiss his forehead, and to proclaim that his conduct was faultless.

To the rack the unhappy Strelitz were doomed. Their limbs were slowly and severally mutilated; and, after long-protracted agonies, they expired. Their heads he caused to be exhibited on a column, which he surrounded with fragments of their bodies, ranged in grotesque but ghastly order, to inspire terror among his discontented subjects.

If Peter hoped this ferocious severity would ensure future tranquillity he was deceived. A new outbreak occurred while he was absent on his travels. On being

informed of it he immediately returned, when he found the revolvers had been put down, and were already in confinement, waiting for him to decide on their fate.

Then the merciless Czar resolved to indulge in a vengeful banquet, and to luxuriate in blood. He studied how to inflict the most thrilling as well as the most enduring anguish. The ingenuity of others was stimulated to afford him a spectacle of the most exquisite misery that human nature could furnish. He caused the wretched men to be put to the torture, and while they were groaning in agony he exultingly looked on, reproached them with their crime, and mocked the sufferings he caused to be inflicted. Such a scene as was then witnessed no stage could attempt to copy. Seated on his throne, the demon-autocrat laughed with hideous joy, and drained the wine-cup in presence of his victims. Festivity and blood were mingled in horrible union. In one hand he mirthfully waved the foaming goblet on high; in the other he brandished the discoloured axe! In one dismally atrocious hour, twenty times did he drain the cup, and twenty heads did he sever from the mangled quivering bodies of the sufferers, rejoicing in the skill and dexterity he displayed, and compelling his nobles to take part in the revolting butchery. On this mournful occasion no fewer than two thousand wretches were put to a death of torture by the ferocious despot.

Such fearful deeds stain the name of this celebrated man. He was certainly a wonderful savage, but his brutal nature could not be restrained, and his consort and his son were eventually found among the number of his victims.

RETURN FROM EPHEBUS.

LETTER II.

THE danger to which I was exposed on returning from the classic spot I had ventured to explore was not exactly of that awfully romantic character which might be imagined after what I have had occasion to say of castles, temples, aqueducts, ruined watch towers, and hovering birds of prey. It was what some may deride as commonplace, but to me sufficiently alarming for all that.

While I and my companions were curiously viewing

"———A nation's sepulchre,
Abode of Gods whose shrines no longer burn,"
our guide, less sentimentally employed in cooking the dinner, had deemed it

"One of the wisest things
To drive dull care away;"
and this he had accomplished by copious draughts of wine. In a word, he had got gloriously tipsy, and when we rejoined

him, was singing and cutting a thousand extravagant capers. No sooner had we got clear of the ruins than it was his good pleasure, observing that I was but an indifferent horseman, to have a little amusement at my expense. On our entering a fine open plain, he rode up to my side so that our horses were neck to neck. He uttered a few Turkish words, which the animals we bestrode understood right well, though I did not. Off they both started, and, in a moment, without being in the slightest degree prepared for it, I found myself engaged in a race. I had not been over steady from the first, and thus taken by surprise, I reeled from starboard to larboard, as a sailor would say, expecting every moment to fall overboard, or to run aground, to the serious injury of my figure-head. I tried to check my horse, and vociferated "Wo, ho!" but the sound of my voice frightened my steed, and he galloped on faster than before. I took the lead; it was "five to four on the captain;" but the Turk, a follower of Mahomet, did not care to be a follower of mine, and urged his quadruped to increased speed, who now shot ahead, and then made a sudden halt. My horse, perceiving his companion stop, did the same, to my infinite relief. The Turk then came near me, laughing heartily, and exulting in having won the race. To him it was excellent fun, but I felt that I had been grossly insulted. "It is not," says Sterne, "every man who can relish humour, however much he may wish it; it is the gift of God." That gift was not vouchsafed to me on this occasion, and in the full flow of my indignation at having thus been sported with, I considered an affront had been offered to my country, and resolved to avenge poor old England's wrongs; approaching the infidel with a stick which I had in my hand, I bestowed three hearty whacks on his shoulders. This part of my performance evidently did not meet with his approbation, but he made no effort to return the blows. Their receipt he acknowledged by a fiendish look, that very distinctly intimated the offence was not likely to be forgotten.

My English friend came up and reproved my want of temper. He said I ought not to have suffered myself to be *carried away* so far. I was a good deal of his opinion, but told him I could not help it, which was really the fact.

"The truth is," said he, "I am apprehensive that very unpleasant consequences will ensue. These Turks never strike each other with the fist or with a stick, and a blow from a 'Christian dog' is such an unbearable indignity, that it is not unfrequently revenged by assassination."

This was not very agreeable intelligence for me, but my blood was up, and when my friend enlarged on the danger I ran, I de-

clared that I was not sorry for the course I had taken, as the rascal well merited the gentle chastisement he had received. He said he would try to accommodate matters by getting our Greek companion to say I had not meant to insult the Turk, but only struck him in jest. They talked with the guide, and after some time he appeared satisfied with the explanation they volunteered.

I now persuaded myself that all was over, but had soon reason for suspecting that the Turk was not appeased. Galloping up to me, he gave me such a broadside that it was with difficulty I kept my seat; the mystic word was again given, and both the horses started as before. Off went my hat, and my wig must have done the same, had I worn one. My beast strained every nerve to conquer. I doubt if the renowned Turpin passed over the ground more swiftly. Our former start was on an open plain, but now we were near the mountains; clumps of trees, bushes, small hills, and pieces of rock, lay in our course. To avoid some of these he made a sudden tack, which had nearly proved fatal to his rider. He distanced the Turk. I held on in great pain, and with much trepidation, when something suddenly gave way, and the next moment I felt that I had to deplore a fearful rent in my inexpressibles. Johnny Gilpin's distress was nothing to mine. He had no Turk for an enemy, and had a fair road before him; besides, he had a good mane to hold by, while I had nothing of the kind to assist me, as my Rosinante had been cut close. I, however, caught hold of the pommel of the saddle, which it is the fashion there to make stand up high, and at the same time ventured again to call out "Wo, ho!" The animal seemed more frightened than ever, and went forward with desperate energy, as I calculated, at the rate of twenty-five knots in the hour. I was beginning to despair, when I found that he had reached the mountains. I perceived his pace slacken, and now was content that he should ascend as fast as he pleased. But he was winded, and I soon succeeded in bringing him to a stand still. My adversary was left behind. I had won the race, but got no stakes. My English friend came up, bringing my hat, which I had never hoped to find exalted on my head again. He congratulated me on my safety, and told me the Turk had been thrown from his horse, and he feared was severely hurt.

I felt little pity for the fellow, considering that he had twice exposed me to great danger, in a spirit of wantonness or malice. To me it was not agreeable to exhibit as the ludicrously disordered equestrian he had made me. He was laid up for several days, and then, being a government courier,

was sent off to a distant place. This, perhaps, saved me from being an object of his future vengeance.

L.

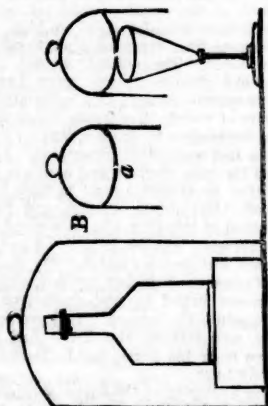
NATURAL MAGIC.

No. II.

THE exposition of Herr Döbler's beautiful experiment, in a late number, having met with decided approbation, we have solicited from our correspondent a series of papers illustrating and explaining other tricks of a similar nature, depending upon the principles of science for their execution.

In the present number we are enabled to offer a solution of the interesting pneumatic experiment of causing a bottle of wine apparently to decant itself into two glasses placed at any reasonable distance on either side of the bottle.

It is more convenient and less expensive to dispense with the usual sized decanter, and employ one which will hold about two glasses full of wine only; a good sized vinegar cruet answers remarkably well, but the stopper must be made to fit the bottle air-tight. In the lower or underneath part of the bottle a fine hole must be drilled.* On filling the cruet with wine, take out the stopper, and, at the same time, close the hole by pressing the finger firmly upon it. When filled and the stopper replaced, no portion of the wine can escape from the bottle, provided the stopper is accurately fitted. The bottle, when filled, is to be placed upon a hollow stand of tin with a hole in the upper part, as shown in the following diagram:—



Over which is placed a tin cover, so as

* This is easily effected by employing a three-cornered or a rat-tailed file ground to a sharp point, and dipping it occasionally, while in use, in spirits of turpentine.

effectually to hide the decanter. There must also be provided two tin caps or covers, made in the manner shown in the diagram, to be placed over the wine-glasses.

These are to be previously filled with wine in the following manner:—Place the finger firmly against the lower hole *a*, and with a small funnel pour the wine into the hole *b*; when filled have ready a piece of bees'-wax, and with it close the hole *b*.

The wine will then, by pneumatic pressure, be retained in the cover similar to the decanter.

In the bare explanations which we thus offer we of course dispense with that *hocus pocus* jargon common to experiments of this nature when exhibited as conjurations. When you intend to perform the deception place the decanter of wine on its stand (which it is better to fill before the spectators) and withdraw the stopper, taking care instantly to place over it its appropriate cover, or the wine will be seen flowing out of it. Then, at any convenient distance, place two wine-glasses, and over them the covers; at the same time, with the nail of the fore-finger, scrape off the bees-wax over the holes; after a few seconds, on removing the covers, the wine will be found to have left the decanter, and the glasses previously empty filled with wine.

B.

PROFESSOR LIEBIG.

OUR readers who have expressed so much satisfaction at reading the able papers on 'Agricultural Chemistry,' which are now in the course of publication in the 'Mirror,' will feel interested in what concerns Professor Liebig, and we are therefore induced to lay before them strictures by Dr Mohl on his book, known in this country under the title of 'Chemistry, in its applications to Agriculture and Physiology.' Throughout the whole work, his reviewer says, there is a want of original experiment, which is the more wonderful, since it is written by the greatest experimenter of his day, and the possessor of one of the largest laboratories in Europe. Nevertheless Liebig everywhere insists on the importance of experiments, and is continually appealing to those of Theodore De Saussure. Under these circumstances the work can only be looked upon as an attempt to construct a theory from data already known to the world.

The next general remark by Dr Mohl refers to the style in which the book is written. If not always correct, it is energetic and clear; and there is not the slightest indication of doubt or uncertainty about anything; the author seems to know everything for certain, and says it boldly out. This sort of style is apt to mislead the uninitiated, and frequently leads the author himself into positive contradictions; in

fact, a thing is stated to be black or white according as it suits the author's purpose. For instance, in one place (p. 22) he says that leaves do *not* decompose carbonic acid in the shade (in which he is wrong), and in another place (p. 121) he says the leaves *do* decompose carbonic acid in the shade (in which he is right). Such contradictions are frequent, and prove that the author is neither well grounded in the subjects on which he has undertaken to write, nor has fully considered them. The manner in which Liebig attributes erroneous views, entertained perhaps by individual botanists, to "vegetable physiologists" and "botanists" in general, is objectionable and liable to mislead. Thus he says (p. 6) that "vegetable physiologists" consider humus as the principal food of plants. Now this is not true; vegetable physiologists have no sacred books in which their code of laws is contained, and if any individuals have maintained such a view, the great body has not. In fact, Ingenhousz, Senebier, Curt Sprengel, Link, and De Candolle, have all either denied it or taken other views. The doctrine of humus is altogether a chemical one, and has only been supported by chemists. Again, Liebig says (p. 24) that "all botanists and vegetable physiologists have doubted the assimilation of the carbon of the atmosphere by plants." Yet all books on vegetable physiology contradict such a statement; and the absorption of carbonic acid from the atmosphere is so generally admitted, that Adolphe Brongniart, in the 13th volume of the 'Annales des Sciences,' has even proposed to account for the excessive vegetation of the primitive world upon the supposition that the atmosphere at the period those plants were growing contained a larger amount of carbonic acid in its composition than it now does. This might have been considered misrepresentation, had not Liebig in many other instances displayed an equal amount of ignorance of botanical literature and facts. As, for example, when he says (p. 91) that the woody fibre of lichens may be replaced by oxalate of lime, and that in *Equisetum* and the Bamboo silica assumes the form and functions of the woody bundles, and (p. 36) that a leaf secreting oil of lemons or oil of turpentine has a different structure from one secreting oxalic acid.

An instance of Liebig's misrepresentation of facts occurs in his rejecting the theory of the respiration of plants. It is well known that plants absorb oxygen in the dark, and give out carbonic acid; and this has been attributed by botanists to a true process of respiration. This, Liebig thinks, betrays great ignorance on the part of botanists. He believes the giving out of the carbonic acid to be merely a mechanical process, and the absorption of

oxygen to be a chemical one. He says all leaves, dead or living, absorb oxygen, and the more oil or tannic acid they possess, the more oxygen they absorb. He endeavours to prove this position by comparing, from tables made by De Saussure, the quantity of oxygen absorbed by the leaves of *Pinus abies*, *Quercus robur*, and *Populus alba*, as compared with the quantity absorbed by the *Agave Americana*. Mohl remarks on this statement, that, in the first place, the quantity of oxygen absorbed by the *Agave* is put down at 0.3, when it ought to have been at 0.8, so as to affect the calculations very considerably; and that, in the second place, those plants in De Saussure's table which contain neither oil nor tannic acid in any quantity, as the *Triticum aestivum* and *Robinia pseudacacia*, are altogether omitted, although they absorbed more oxygen than those mentioned by Liebig; whilst the oily *Juniper* and *Rue*, which are also omitted, absorbed less.

Again, Liebig states on this point, that the absorption of oxygen has nothing at all to do with the processes of life. How is it, then, asks Mohl, that plants begin to be blighted when oxygen is withdrawn; that seeds will not germinate; that leaves lose their irritability; that the motions of leaves and flowers cease; that leaf-buds and flower-buds will not open when brought into an atmosphere without oxygen?

These few remarks will show the claim Professor Liebig has to become a reformer of botanical science, or at least the view which some eminent men take of his pretensions.

Set a Priest to kill a Priest.—In the conspiracy of the Pazzi, in which Pope Sixtus IV was an accomplice, an allotment being made by the conspirators of the different victims, Lorenzo de' Medici had fallen to Montesecco, a Condottiero in the service of the pontiff; but when the soldier was apprised that the murder, instead of being executed in the midst of a banquet, was to be committed in church and during the elevation of the host, he scrupled to join sacrilege to treason; and among the conspirators none but priests could be found whose conscience this idea did not affright. In fact, an apostolical scribe and a curate were charged with striking the blow which had alarmed the Condottiero. "*Qui familiaris utpote sacerdos; et ob id minus sacrorum locorum metuens.*"

Dean Swift's Female Friends.—Swift, though a dignitary of the church, was intimate with the reputed mistresses of two kings,—the Countess of Suffolk, George the Second's favourite, and the Countess of Orkney, King William's. The latter he pronounced to be the "wisest woman he ever knew."



Arms. Quarterly; first and fourth, or, a saltire, engr. between four roses gu. for Napier; second and third, or, on a bend, az., a mullet between two crescents of the field, within a double tressure, flory, counter flory, of the second for Scot of Thirlestane.

Crest. A dexter arm, erect, couped below the elbow, grasping a crescent.

Supporters. Dexter, an eagle, ppr.; sinister, a chevalier in complete armour, supporting with the exterior hand a lance, ppr., thereto a pennon gu.

Mottos. "Sans tache." "Without spot," and "Ready, aye ready."

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF NAPIER.

In 'Burke's Peerage' we read, "Sir Archibald Napier, of Merchistoun, eldest son of the celebrated Sir John Napier, the inventor of logarithms, who died April the 3rd, 1617 (which Sir John was lineally descended from Sir Alexander Napier, comptroller of Scotland temp. James II, and Vice-Admiral in the reign of James III), having accompanied James VI into England, was sworn of the Privy Council, appointed Treasurer-Depute of Scotland in 1622; appointed Clerk and Judge of Session in 1623; created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, 2nd March, 1627; and elevated to the Peerage of Scotland, 4th May in the same year, as Baron Napier of Merchistoun. His Lordship married Margaret, daughter of John, first Marquis of Montrose, and dying in 1645, was succeeded by his only son."

From the glance taken above of the progenitors of Sir Archibald, it will be seen that this family is one of great antiquity and importance.

Sir Archibald, just mentioned, the second Baron, distinguished himself, fighting in the Royal cause during the civil wars. He left behind him two sons and a daughter, Archibald, Jean, and Thomas. The first succeeded to the title, and obtained, February the 6th, 1677, a new patent, containing an extension of the remaindership to his heirs female and their heirs male and female, and to his sisters and their heirs general whatsoever. He died unmarried in 1683, when the barony devolved upon the only child of his sister, Sir Thomas Nicholson, of Carnock, Bart., the nephew of the last peer, who dying under age and unmarried in 1686, the Hon. Margaret Napier, his aunt, became Baroness Napier. This lady was widow to Sir John Bristow, Esq., Secretary to the Admiralty in the reign of Charles II; her daughter Elizabeth, mistress of Napier, married, in 1699, William Scott, Esq., son of Sir Francis Scott, Bart., of Thirlestane. That lady had an only son,

who succeeded in the barony at the death of his grandmother, Lady Napier, in 1706, and assumed the surname of Napier, succeeding also to the baronetcy on the death of his father, in 1725. He married twice, had a family by each wife, and dying in 1673, was succeeded by his eldest son, William. He was a Lieut.-Colonel in the army, and Deputy Advocate-General of the forces in Scotland; he married the daughter of Charles, eighth Lord Cathcart, by whom he had an only son. This was Francis, the seventh Baron D.C.L. On his death, October 13, 1786, he was succeeded by his eldest son, William John. On his demise, October 11, 1834, the title descended to his son, Francis Napier, of Merchistoun, the present Peer, who was born September 15, 1819.

NOTES OF A TOUR IN FINLAND AND RUSSIA.—PART V.

(For the Mirror.)

THE police of Russia is so strict in some matters that it might reasonably be expected to be efficient as regards the safety both of person and property. Such, however, is far from being the case in either respect, and several instances of its inefficiency occurred even during our brief sojourn in St Petersburg. Two bodies bearing marks of violence were taken out of the canal within a few hundred yards of our boarding house in less than a fortnight, and such discoveries appear to be so frequent both in the canals and rivers, that these murders created neither excitement nor inquiry. From the supineness of the public regarding such matters, it seemed to be almost considered they concerned no one but the officers of police, and after the discovery of one body several hours were permitted to elapse before it was even taken out of the water; for, until the arrival of the proper officer, no one would presume to touch it. As the people of Russia are peculiarly exempt from insanity, it is reasonable to conclude

that a large proportion of the remains so found are cases of robbery and murder. Pocket-picking occupies a greater number of the *chevalier d'industrie* class in the Nevskoi prospect of St Petersburg, than it does in the Strand of London, and after having passed through the latter a thousand times with impunity, it was somewhat provoking to receive here a practical proof of Russian superiority in that description of conveyancing. On mentioning the circumstance at the boarding-house table numerous similar instances were immediately detailed, winding up with an account of an English gentleman who had his pocket twice picked in one day. The crowded Cazan Church is said to be on Sundays literally a den of thieves, and few unsuspecting strangers who enter it escape without receiving indisputable evidence that the attention of some of its frequenters is more devoted to the things of this world than to thoughts of the next.

As pocket-picking exists to a considerable extent in all large cities, one is not surprised to meet with it in St Petersburg. But it must be admitted that in all the departments of legitimate commerce here a dreadful system of extortion too generally prevails, and amounts to robbery towards the unsuspecting. In nearly all the shops of St Petersburg, for example, excepting only the English magazine, it is quite the usual practice to demand for every article double, and even treble the price which will ultimately be willingly taken. The Russians themselves being quite conversant with this dishonest practice, and knowing the just value of every article, regulate their offers accordingly, but strangers are made to pay a heavy penalty for the thoughtless habits they may have acquired in other countries.

All the higher departments of commerce are chiefly occupied by English and German merchants, in consequence, probably, of the Russian reputation for integrity being so low as to preclude the possibility of confidence being reposed in them. Notwithstanding the great advantage which Russia derives from the residence of so many eminent foreign merchants, she modestly lays an enormous tax on them, amounting to no less than about 150*l.* sterling each, and one English firm, consisting of four partners, pays as much as 600*l.* annually for permission to follow their vocation as first-class merchants. Even in the larger transactions of trade dishonest practices are stated to be indulged in by the natives to a considerable extent, as the foreign merchants too often discover in a manner not the most agreeable to their pecuniary feelings; and an English merchant at one of the out-ports, on making recently a complaint to a Russian supplier of produce that he had been cheated, the fraud

was acknowledged, and the impertinently pertinent question added, "But why did you allow it?"

The descendants of the twelve tribes are almost prohibited from following commercial pursuits in this country, in consequence, I believe, of some political demonstration made by their brethren of Poland during the reign of the late emperor, and the Israelites are said to allege that their race are no losers by the exclusion, as it would have been impossible for them to avoid being over-reached in commerce by the more subtle talent of the Russian traders.

Either from an excessive fondness for the China leaf, or a desire thereby to excite the intellectual system to its highest point of action, it is the usual practice in Russia, and more especially in the Moscow district, for parties to drink tea while discussing the terms of a transaction; and this wholesome beverage is certainly much better suited for such occasions than the beer, brandy, or wine, with which the lower classes in England stupify themselves, as if to efface the recollection of such arrangements as they may have made.

The overland teas of Russia are, however, a much more aromatic and delightful beverage than is to be met with at home. Whether the superior fragrance of the Russian tea arises from its not having encountered the sea dampness of a long voyage, or whether it is that the teas brought across the desert being the produce of a different and superior district of China to that which supplies Canton, is a subject on which opinions differ; be the cause what it may, there is no doubt of the fact that, in Russia generally, the tea is very much better than is to be met with in other parts of Europe.

The aristocracy of Russia appear to be as curious in the quality of their teas as those of England are in the choice flavour of their wines; and in order to obtain the highest possible aroma, the dried tea blossom is frequently purchased at prices varying from 100 to 150 rubles per pound, with a view to its being mixed in a certain limited proportion with the tea itself.

In order probably to encourage the great and increasing caravan intercourse between China and Russia, sea-borne teas are strictly excluded, and the subjects of the Czar appear to be received in a more confiding spirit in the Celestial Empire than those of any other country of Europe, for a Russian mission of a limited number has for many years been resident in Peking. It is therefore scarcely to be doubted that Russia possesses a better knowledge of the true state of China than most other nations.

A fashionable modern Chinese novel has been lately translated into Russian at the expense of the government, and this is pro-

bably intended more in compliment to the people than to the literature of China.

A French gentleman with whom we met seemed to be particularly desirous that a translation of this work from Russian into his native language should be made, in order that the ladies of Paris might also be able to luxuriate in Chinese imagery while sipping their hyson. Some of the Eastern expressions and similes he stated to be peculiarly difficult to be rendered, but the principal of these difficulties must no doubt have been already overcome by the Russian translators, and being the most popular romance of China for two hundred years, it could scarcely fail to be esteemed, as at least a literary curiosity.

The Augustan age of Russian literature is as yet in the distant horizon of futurity, for, notwithstanding the patronage which his present Majesty has extended to it, little general progress appears to have been made in the cultivation of the *belles lettres*. The unfortunate Pushkin, who has been honoured with the title of the Russian Byron, was the chief poetic luminary of the empire, and no doubt need exist as to his belonging to the true *genus irritabile*, for he some time since afforded a conclusive and melancholy proof of it, by challenging his brother-in-law in a fit of jealousy, and fighting even to the death. The Emperor has most liberally granted pensions to the poet's family, on a scale which is unknown, and is perhaps not required, in more free and literary countries. He has also become the patron of a new edition of the late poet's works, and having such patronage, all the *beau monde* of Russia must of course possess them.

If the fine arts do not ultimately become naturalized in this empire, it will not be from any lack of patronage, for a considerable number of youths, such as have evinced the best natural tastes, have been sent to Rome, and the other schools of art, to pursue their studies at the expense of government.

The academy of the fine arts at St Petersburg does not, however, as yet afford much evidence of the patronage having been successful, though one native artist has brought back from Italy, if not the fire of genius, at least a moderately good and excessively-admired representation of the overflowing fire of Mount Vesuvius. Being the best of the very few good pictures recently produced by native artists, the *overflow* of public feeling is perhaps quite as natural as that of the lava.

An impression appears to prevail in Europe, that the Russians generally are possessed of more than ordinary talents, but an English gentleman who was peculiarly well qualified to judge on this point, both from length of residence, as well as his general acquirements, strongly repudiated

the idea, and I am much disposed to attach weight to his opinion. Any one attempting to give a description of this Slavonic race on phrenological principles, describes their heads as being broader, and, on the whole, larger than usual, the back of the head and all the side organs being large, while the moral organs are small, and the intellectual ones moderate; and such a description would not materially differ from that of those who judge of the people through other media.

That facility in the acquisition of languages by which the Russians are distinguished, is often considered as of much more consequence than it ought to be, and when the means are known by which various languages are in that country established in the mind in early infancy, the result ceases to afford any surprise. All persons of fortune and condition have usually, for example, either German or English nurses for their children, and infants are thus first taught to lispen one or other of these tongues, while French is the language in which they are addressed by their parents, and Russian being the sole language of the vulgar, is of course readily enough acquired.

Thus are three languages gained in infancy without the tediousness of either grammars or dictionaries, and we met with a striking illustration of it after leaving Petersburg, in a boy of about four years of age, whose mamma assured us that he could speak with nearly equal readiness three languages.

The schoolmaster, though now no doubt to some extent abroad in the towns of Russia, is yet to be considered here as much a political instructor as a teacher of the elements of knowledge, for unconditional love and loyalty towards the Emperor is inculcated in the most enlarged sense, and he is always pointed to as the chief source of earthly good.

Such training must naturally produce orderly fruits:—

"Tis education forms the common mind,
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

That a hardy northern nation in a low state of civilization like Russia, with a vast proportion of her population in a state of slavery, may wage war with less suffering than nations which are more advanced is easily demonstrable. The exposure and privation, which in a winter campaign would appear dreadful to the delicately-trained soldiers of more southern countries, would scarcely be felt even as hardship by an army of Russians, and a battle which might consign a hundred thousand of her serf soldiers to death would excite comparatively little national sympathy. There are, perhaps, other reasons which point to peace as the best policy of the empire.

Among these, it is understood, that the Russian government has always felt a disinclination to their soldiery mixing much among the free inhabitants of other countries, lest they should bring back a spirit of liberty such as might endanger the whole system of vassalage.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Mr Standish, of Bagshot, exhibited four seedling fuchsias, which he stated to have been obtained in the following manner; having raised in 1842, from *F. formosa elegans*, fertilized with the pollen of *F. corymbiflora*, some pretty seedlings, these again seeded freely without assistance, and gave rise to the present plants, which showed that this tribe, instead of degenerating like calceolarias, and many florists' flowers, if not crossed, improved considerably. Colonel Sowerby sent half-a-dozen very fine peaches, from standard trees, growing in the centre of a house upon the rafters of which vines are trained; one of the specimens had been produced upon the end of a shoot devoid of a terminal bud: a Banksian medal was awarded. Amongst the peaches exhibited were some well-swelled and beautifully-coloured noblesse peaches grown by Sir C. Sullivan, which, independent of their great beauty, were interesting from the circumstance of their having been produced by a tree sixteen years of age, which was removed two years ago from a south to a west aspect, and never produced previous to its removal such fine fruit as those exhibited. Mr Frazer, the gardener, is of opinion that all peach-trees of any size are improved by being occasionally removed and properly transplanted.

PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—**THE GASTRIC JUICES.**—A work on digestion was received from M. Blondlot. The author has directed his attention principally to the gastric juice, which he regards as the principal agent in the functions of digestion. To obtain this juice in abundance, and in a pure state, M. Blondlot made an artificial opening into the stomach of a dog, which enabled him to extract the gastric juice, or alimentary substances, at various periods of digestion. He announces that his experiments have been perfectly successful, and that he has a dog on which he made his first essay, two years ago, and which can supply him, he says, in the course of an hour or so, with more than three ounces of pure gastric juice.

GARDENING HINTS.

THE time has now arrived to prepare flowers for a winter and spring show: there should be potted off a general collection of Californian and other North American annuals, a nice stock of Chinese, tea-scented, and Bourbon roses, with abundance of cinerarias, violets, and mignonette in several different stages of growth. If these things have not been prepared, there is not a day to be lost. If the plants are not well established, at the latest, by the

end of October, no after management will induce them to bloom with anything like freedom before the spring.

Of cinerarias, the smallest of the plants now potted will be those to bloom next May, and in order to get unusually large specimens it is recommended to put four or five plants into a pot. Cinerarias should not be exposed to currents of cold air. The proper way is to set them so that the leaves just touch, but never to allow them to be crowded. If the runners have been regularly taken from the Neapolitan and Russian violets, they will now be showing bloom abundantly. It is also quite time that the best of the plants were potted, and the remainder planted in a frame or on a warm south border.

Much importance is attached by some cultivators to the potting of hyacinths and other bulbs early in September, but quite as much depends upon the after treatment of the bulbs as upon the time of potting. For bulbs to bloom at Christmas, the most hardy of the single varieties should be used, and after they are established in their pots, they should be placed in a brisk bottom-heat, and be kept covered with inverted pots, and in the dark, until the leaves and flower-stems are at least four inches long. The old system of potting with the apex of the bulb level with the top of the pot is the most preferable. It is a matter of little importance what soil the bulbs are planted in, so long as it is light and sandy, as the sap necessary for the production of the flower is already stored in the bulb, and only requires proper treatment to develop it, whether it be planted in moss or soil, or placed over water. The Van Thiel tulip, with a few hyacinths and Chinese primroses, make admirable little groups for the drawing-room table when neatly arranged in flat baskets or trays, and the surface of the pots covered with moss.

THE FIRST ARTICLE IN AN ALBUM.

BOLD is the scribe who leads the way
Among the witty and the gay,
For such a one it might be well,
That he all followers should excel;
And then, ah! what pretence have I
My inexperienced pen to try?

But as at billiards a first ball
Must lead, or there's no play at all,
I venture something to produce,
That others may have no excuse.
And as before a butcher's shop,
We've seen a crowd of muttons stop,
Then fixed upon that spot to stay
Their silent firmness seemed to say,
To those who whistle or harangue,
Ere we go in we'll see you hang;
But if one ragged starv'ling ewe
Be placed before the stubborn crew,

The drover sees, spared further pain,
 Fat wethers following in her train;
 Each struggles first to gain the door,
 Which all were fixed to shun before.
 I'm the first ball that starts the cue,
 I'm the scorned ewe—how unlike *you*.

Even now I see a brilliant throng,
 In gay succession pass along;
 Here gentle pity seeks to pour
 Her soothing, sweetly pleasing lore.
 Here sentiment essays to move,
 And here thy thrilling strains, O Love!
 Then comes with repartee to hit,
 The sportive flourishes of wit.
 And now the pencil joins to aid
 The pen with varied light and shade.
 Bards cease, while artists picture nature's
 bloom,
 And now the *attic* leaves us *drawing room*.

Lady, I fain would see your album sheets
 Become a splendid paradise of sweets.
 There may the tree of knowledge gain a
 root,

But not to prosper a forbidden fruit.
 Like Eden fragrant, and like Eden fair,
 But, unlike Eden, have no serpent there.

PLAYS AND MYSTERIES IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

PROBABLY the oldest drama on a religious theme of which we have any account, is one composed by a Jew named Ezekiel, entitled *Ἐξάγγελον*. It was a tragedy representing the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt. The fathers of the church, and particularly Eusebius, have preserved fragments of this piece; but, as a whole, it is not extant. The next is the well-known 'Christus Patiens' of Gregory Nazianzen, modelled on the plan of the Athenian Drama, in which were represented the sufferings of the Redeemer; the choruses being metamorphosed into Christian hymns. The third of the known writers of this kind of composition was "a pensive nun, devout, and pure," *Hroswitha* or *Rhoswitha*, of the abbey of Gandersheim, in Saxony, who lived in the tenth century. Amongst other writings on sacred subjects, she composed, we are informed, six spiritual plays in Latin prose.

In the year 1264 A.D., the brotherhood of Del Gonfalone was instituted at Rome, and performed religious pageants in the Coliseum till 1549, when Pope Paul III issued an interdict against their continuing any longer to use that building. Nevertheless, the representations proceeded, but in another place. Coeval with the establishment of this society was the origin of our "Chester Mysteries."

At Valenciennes, a society called "Confrérie de Notre Dame du Pay," was, according to the ancient chronicles of that city, founded in 1229, and renewed in 1426. "The four presidents were intrusted with the providing of three minstrels and two trumpeters, for the more favourable re-

presentation of their festivities. A stage used to be erected on the Sunday of the ascension of the Virgin, and her image was carried in procession to the accompanying chorus of twelve persons, clad like the Apostles, and singing children representing angels. In the great aisle of the church at that point, where there was the greatest profusion of statues and pictures, a stage was erected for the effigy of the Virgin, above which shone a heaven, and the mystery of the ascension was thus accurately represented. Hereupon came forth certain persons, who recited poems in praise of our Lady. The most successful of these received from the society a silver crown, the second best a silver chaplet, and the rest two bottles of wine a piece for their good intentions. The preacher got half a sheep as his perquisite; the apostles, above mentioned, a plate of fruit and half a bottle of wine; and the Carmelites and Dominicans of the town, who had been present at the pageant, by invitation, received, as a guerdon, double rations from the refectory."

L'Enfant, the historian of the council of Constance (1414), relates that the Bishop of Salisbury, and the five other bishops who were present at this religious congress, invited the authorities and respectable burghers of the town of Constance to a pageant, at which was performed the 'Mystery of the Holy Nativity,' the 'Adoration of the Wise Men,' and the 'Slaughter of the Innocents'; and from this he concludes that English clergymen were the originators of the scriptural drama in Germany.

In 1571, the 'Last Judgment' was played at Stuttgart, when the fire of Hell extended somewhat beyond its legitimate bounds, the devils fled, and God the father, from aloft, began to call out dreadfully, fearful of perishing in the flames. The above-mentioned author also tells us, that in 1593 a 'Tragico-Comedia Apostolica' was brought out at Lauingen, in which there were no less than 246 performers. — *Menzel*.

EXACTIONS AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

ONE of the correspondents of the 'Athenæum' quotes as a rebuke to all rapacious vergers, beadles, sextons, and similar functionaries, the entrance-fee accepted at St Paul's—twopence. It grieves us, our contemporary adds, to dispel this beautiful illusion, but truth must be declared—the charge for seeing St Paul's is four shillings and fourpence a head precisely. Whatever simple ruralists imagine, the gryphons here have claws, and as wide a grasp and as deep a gorge as their brethren beyond the lamps. We give the authorised tariff

of expenses, lest their enormous sum total, still more than our tropes, might make a reader think we were romancing:—

	a.	d.
To view the Monuments and Body of the Church - -	0	2
To the Whispering Gallery and the two outside Galleries - - - -	0	6
To the Ball - - - -	1	6
To the Library, Great Bell, Geometrical Staircase, and Model Room - - -	1	0
Clock - - - -	0	2
Crypt or Vaults - - -	1	0
	4	4

If "Peter's pence" be no longer levied upon our countrymen, here are Paul's pence instead, or rather Paul's shillings. Well might a grave humourist look round as he disburses his last fee, and ejaculate—"Truly, an imposing interior!" Separate charges being affixed to the separate departments, a pilgrim would imagine he might visit any single one among them at his pleasure, but he may find himself perchance, on trial, the victim of his credulous nature, thus:—Suppose he has little enthusiasm about "Whispering Galleries," and much about fine architecture, nevertheless he cannot behold Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece—the Protestant plan of St Paul's—except by a visit (or at least, fee) to both the said whispering place and the model room. If an architectural student or amateur would examine that plan well, and therefore often, he must pay each time—entrance fee, 2d., galleries, 6d., model room, 1s.—altogether 1s. 8d.! This is the case also if his object be the geometric staircase, library, or belfry alone, he must run a similar gauntlet of toll-collectors, each coming down upon him heavier than the last. At St Paul's Mammon has a statue no less than Howard the philanthropist, and receives worship as fervent there as at Change alley: reader, if thou seekest his shrine—*Circumspice!* Yet wherefore should we fall foul of the poor mercenaries, or (it may be) the self-formed gang who practise this polite "stop and deliver" system under permission? It is those who farm the indoor church-tax to these people at a rack-rent, or hire them at no wages as church servitors, whom we should hold accountable; those who ordain the *usage* which establishes the exorbitant rates, not those menial officers who enforce it. Having consulted an old London Guide-book (1819) we discover that the charges then averaged twopence, and made up altogether but 3s. 6d., crypt money exclusive; then, likewise, no multiple turnpikes were demanded, but each object could be seen separate, after paying the general admission twopence. Such has been the

progress in liberal spirit accomplished by our civic Dean and Chapter in the fourth of a century!

PROFESSOR OF SIGNS.

KING JAMES VI, on removing to London, was waited upon by the Spanish ambassador, a man of erudition, but who had a crotchet in his head that every country should have a professor of signs, to teach him and the like of him to understand one another. The ambassador was lamenting one day before the king this great desideratum throughout all Europe, when the king, who was a queerish sort of man, said to him, "Why, I have a professor of signs in the nothernmost college of my dominions, viz., at Aberdeen; but it is a great way off, perhaps six hundred miles." "Were it ten thousand leagues off I shall see him," said the ambassador, "and am determined to set out in two or three days." The king saw he had committed himself, and wrote, or caused to be written, to the university of Aberdeen, stating the case, and desiring the professors to put him off some way or make the best of him. The ambassador arrives, is received with great solemnity; but soon began to inquire which of them had the honour to be the professor of signs? and being told that the professor was absent in the Highlands, and would return nobody could say when, the ambassador said, "I will wait his return, though it were twelve months." Seeing that this would not do, and that they had to entertain him at a great expense all the while, they contrived a stratagem. There was one Geordy, a butcher, blind of an eye, a droll fellow, with much wit and roguery about him. He was told the story, and instructed to be a professor of signs; but not to speak on pain of death. Geordy undertakes it. The ambassador was now told that the professor of signs would be at home next day, at which he rejoiced greatly. Geordy is gowned, wigged, and placed in a chair of state in a room of the college, all the professors and the ambassador being in an adjoining room. The ambassador is now shown into Geordy's room, and left to converse with him as well as he could, the other professors waiting the issue with fear and trembling. The ambassador holds up one of his fingers to Geordy; Geordy holds up two of his. The ambassador holds up three; Geordy clenches his fist and looks stern. The ambassador then takes an orange from his pocket, and holds it up; Geordy takes a piece of barley cake from his pocket, and holds that up. After which the ambassador bows to him, and retires to the other professors, who anxiously inquired his opinion of their brother. "He is a perfect miracle," says the ambassador; "I would not give him for the wealth of the

Indies!" "Well," say the professors, "to descend to particulars." "Why," said the ambassador, "I first held up one finger, denoting that there is one God; he held up two, signifying that these are the Father and Son; I held up three, meaning the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; he clenched his fist, to say that these three are one. I then took out an orange, signifying the goodness of God, who gives his creatures not only the necessities but the luxuries of life; upon which the wonderful man presented a piece of bread, showing that that was the staff of life, and preferable to every luxury." The professors were glad that matters had turned out so well; so, having got quit of the ambassador, they next got Geordy, to hear his version of the signs. "Well, Geordy, how have you come on, and what do you think of yon man?" "The rascal," says Geordy, "what did he do first, think ye? He held up one finger, as much as to say you have only one eye! Then I held up two, meaning that my one eye was perhaps as good as both his. Then the fellow held up three of his fingers, to say that there were but three eyes between us; and then I was so mad at the scoundrel that I *steeked my neive*, wishing to come a whack on the side of his head, and would ha'e done it too, but for your sakes. Then the rascal did not stop with his provocation here; but, forsooth, takes out an orange, as much as to say, your poor beggarly cold country cannot produce that! I showed him a whang of a bear bannock, meaning that I didna care a farthing for him nor his trash neither, as lang's I ha'e this! But, by a' that's guid," concluded Geordy, "I'm angry yet that I didna thrash the hide o' the scoundrel!"

A SAINT'S ENTERTAINMENT.

THE fairies had a grudge against Father Christy, and watched to take him at an advantage; so one night, it was close up Hollantide, if it was not the very eve of All Saints itself; any how, Father Christy was coming home to Kilconnell, from the hospitable house of one of his gentlemen parishioners. I think the place is, or was, called Hillswood, and the moon, the deceiving moon, was up, and she threw her shadows and shinings in such a way, that it would be hard for any man, especially when coming from a place overflowing with hospitality, to pick his way quite straight; but at any rate the priest thought he had the path, and on he went, expecting every moment to see the abbey tower—when, mighty strange!!! his reverence found himself at the door of a great house, and standing at the hall-door, clad in green and gold lace, was a servant who bid him welcome, took his horse with a low bow, and pointed to the open hall-door, and

requested him to enter, which he did, nothing loath, for all round seemed as kind as it was lightsome and gay. At the entrance of a splendidly lit up chamber he met a lovely lady with a goblet of wine in her hand, as clear and sparkling and enchanting as her own dark rolling eye, and she led him into where tables were laid out, and gallant gentlemen and gorgeous dames sat intermingled, and, as the priest entered, one and all rose and cried, "You're welcome, Father Christy;" and they were all equally so kind and so encouraging. "Here's a seat by me," says one; "No," says another, "come beside me, and have your back to the fire this cold night, dear, sweet Father Christy." But all this kind and invitatory bustle was set at rest by the little splendid man dressed in green cut velvet, with a golden hunting cap on his head, who sat at the head of the table, and who summoned him, with an air of superiority, to take a chair at his right hand, as the post of honour. And now the work of the festive hour was being begun—each seemed about to address him, or herself, to the food they liked best, when up stood the Amphytrion of the feast, and with that satisfied air which denotes that the speaker is about to address a willing audience, he said, "Gentlemen and ladies, before we set to, I propose that we drink the health of our guest, Father Christy, AND LONG MAY HE REIGN AMONGST US." To which all, with one accord, assented, and were in the act of filling bumpers, and crying hip, hip, three-times-three, when the priest, on being offered the wine, as it went round, with all due gravity, and as became his calling, said, "Most noble, my unknown entertainer, and you, ye gay gentlemen and gracious ladies, I do, from my heart, respond to your hospitalities, and shall most willingly partake of your cheer, and especially your wine, for, as you all may know, it is more pleasant to set to drinking again than to eating; but this I must say, that it has ever been my own practice, and I do my endeavour, as becomes my cloth, to teach it to others, never to sit down to table without saying grace,"—and with that his reverence, with his usual slight and agility, cut the sign of the cross on his breast, and said off his Latin with such holy rapidity, that none but a practised eye and ear could see or hear the reverend office; but wondrous were its effects: like a flash of lightning, or the shifting of the FATA MORGANA in the straits of Messina, or on the coast of the Giant's Causeway, all vanished—light, people, goblets, and good cheer; and lo! the priest rubbed his eyes, and felt very much as if he had been just a-sleeping, at the stump of an ash tree near the village, and nothing was very wrong about him, save that the knee of his thickset small-clothes was burst, and the

rein of his good and quiet mare broken, which was altogether of no consequence, as the gentle beast was grazing but a few yards off.—*Otway's Tour in Connaught.*

Miscellaneous.

THE LARGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD.—No diamond is known to exist so large as that of the King of Portugal, found in the river Abaite, about ninety-two leagues to N.W. of Serro do Frio. The history of its discovery is romantic:—Three Brazilians, Ant^o de Souza, Jose Felix Gomez, and Thomas de Souza, were sentenced to perpetual banishment in the wildest part of the Interior. Their sentence was a cruel one; but the region of their exile was the richest in the world: every river rolled over a bed of gold, every valley contained inexhaustible mines of diamonds. An impression of this kind enabled these men to support the horrors of their fate; they were constantly sustained by the hope of discovering some rich mine. They wandered about for nearly six years in vain, but fortune was at last propitious. An excessive drought had laid dry the bed of the river Abaite, and here, while working for gold, they discovered a diamond of nearly an ounce in weight. Overwhelmed with joy, they resolved to proceed, at all hazards, to Villa Rica, and trust to the mercy of the crown. The governor, on beholding the magnitude and lustre of the gem, could scarcely credit the evidence of his senses. He immediately appointed a commission of the officers of the Diamond district to report on its nature; and on their pronouncing it a real diamond, it was dispatched to Lisbon. The sentence of the three "condamnados" was immediately reversed. The value of this celebrated diamond has been estimated by Romé de l'Isle at the enormous sum of three hundred millions sterling. It is uncut, but the late King of Portugal, who had a passion for precious stones, caused a hole to be bored through it, in order to wear it suspended about his neck on gala days.

FILIAL AFFECTION OF THE CHINESE.—The habitual reverence inspired in the mind of a child follows him through life, and forms an indissoluble link—a social bond of the strongest kind. The duty incumbent on a son to provide for the necessities of his indigent parents is seldom slighted, save by those who have no regard for themselves, and is usually discharged with many other becoming acts of esteem. I have sometimes admired the conduct of a son when he has brought an aged parent to the hospital; the tenderness with which he conducted him to the patient's chair, and the feeling with which he detailed his sufferings showed how deeply-rooted filial piety is in the heart of a Chi-

nese. At Macao, a Chinese shoemaker, who had done some work for me at Singapore, called to ask me for some further encouragement. "Why," said I to him, "did you leave Singapore, where you had a good business?" "My poor mother," he replied, "is getting very old, and she will have me live near her." In obedience to the command of a parent, he had given up the certain pursuit of a livelihood abroad, and returned to take a very precarious chance at home. The reader will not be sorry to hear that this man used to come, from time to time, for a stock of new Testaments to distribute among such of his countrymen as were likely to make a proper use of them.

The Gaiety.

Love of Travelling.—Montaigne took such delight in travelling, that he hated the very approach to the place where he designed to stay.

Schools in America.—The school funds in the state of New York alone consist of endowments, grants and appropriations from the State and individuals, and amount to 10,500,000 dollars, which by law are declared inviolable.

A Poet's Promise.—"If my hearers be true to me, I shall raise the despised head of poetry again, and stripping her out of those rotten and base rags wherewith the times have adulterated her form, restore her to her primitive habit, feature, and majesty, and render her worthy to be embraced and kissed of all the great and master-spirits of our world."—*Ben Jonson.*

A Poet's Progenitors.—Dante supposed that his nature included the contradictions of some ill-matched progenitors, and that, while he had a grace for one parent or ancestor, he had a slut and fury for another.

Science and Economy of Beavers.—They work in concert on the wood, gnawing the trees and branches to suit their operations. A tree, the thickness of a man's body, they will soon bring down by gnawing round its base, but on one side merely; and they know so exactly the operation of gravity on it, that they make it fall always across the stream, so as to require no land carriage.—*Lord Brougham.*

Ancient Martyrs.—The persecuted Christians of old were accustomed to exclaim when dying—"One God, one faith, one bishop" (*unus Deus, una fides, unus episcopus*). Some eloquence and reflection must have been used, to bring them to covet plurality of bishops.

A New Pavement.—A newly-invented wood pavement has been laid down opposite the residence of the mayor, in the Rue de l'Ecu. It is a combination of wood and asphalt, possessing seemingly the advan-

tages of both. It is the invention of Colonel Sir J. Lilly: the cost is said to be about 5s. a yard.—*Boulogne Gazette.*

Dormant Vegetation.—If the seed of corn or other vegetables be placed in the earth so low—perhaps one foot deep—where the heat of the sun's rays cannot penetrate, the seed will be preserved, but remain dormant for years for want of its proper stimulant; but the instant you raise the seed so near the surface of the earth as to allow the sun's rays to act upon it, the natural stimulus of heat soon causes the germ to burst the bounds of its confined husk, and prepares the stem to grow and to fructify.—*Dr Jeffreys.*

Free Circulating Libraries.—The bishops of Belgium have issued a manifesto against the swarm of books of bad moral tendency reprinted by the Belgian press. The cheapness of these works has given them a wide circulation, and the evil seems to be rapidly spreading. The bishops call upon the clergy of the country to form libraries, for free circulation among the people. One library already formed, by donations exclusively, in Brussels, for this purpose, is said to have lent during the past year upwards of 30,000 volumes.

Huss and Ziska.—The sculptor Schwanthaler is occupied on two statues, of the size of life, of Huss and Ziska. They are to be cast in bronze, and deposited in a Bohemian Walhalla, which is to contain statues of famous Bohemians, now being formed by a private gentleman at Lobich near Prague.

Shutting up of Oatlands.—The public are now wholly excluded from Oatlands Park, through which they have enjoyed right of way almost from time immemorial. It is supposed to be the work of some underlings who have mistaken or neglected the instructions given for their guidance by their superiors.

Last Moments of Harvey.—The great Harvey kept making observations on the state of his pulse, when life was drawing to its close,—“as if,” says Dr Wilson, “he who had taught us the beginning of life, might himself, at his departing from it, become acquainted with that of death.”

Physic Mischievous.—Variety of medicines is the daughter of Ignorance, and it is not more true that many dishes have caused many diseases, than this is true, that many medicines have caused few cures.—*Bacon.*

Sale of Children.—In the travels of Messrs Moorcroft and Trebeck, in the Himalayan Provinces, which have just issued from the press, it is said in reference to Tiri, “There is no doubt that the population was always kept down by the practice which has immemorially prevailed in many of the mountain districts, of the sale of children by their own parents in times

of scarcity and distress. In some places, was credibly informed, persons married more wives than they had the means of maintaining, for the purpose of raising money by the sale of their offspring; and although this may not be strictly true, yet the story itself proves that the people of these countries are accustomed to look to the disposal of their children as means of subsistence.”

Lord Bacon.—This eminent judge, though so far beyond his age in all matters of science, was not less credulous than the weakest of his contemporaries, and published very minute directions for guarding against witches, under which imputation many scores of wretched old women were burnt in the reign of that sapient Demonologist, James the First.

Patents in France.—An action has been brought in France by the representatives of Mr Elkington, the proprietor of a patent for the new process of gilding by immersion in a bath of gold and alkali, against M.M. Simon, Redier, and others, for piracy; and a cross action was brought by those parties, with a view of having it declared that Mr Elkington's patent was null and void, on the ground of the process being public property. The case having come before the Cour Royale, on an appeal of one of the parties from a judgment of the Tribunal of Commerce, M.M. Simon, Redier, and Co. were declared to have no right to use the same process, and condemned to all the costs of the suit, which are said to amount to 40,000fr.

Sir Matthew Wood.—Mr Alderman Wood, who greatly exerted himself in the cause of Queen Caroline twenty-three years ago, is no more. He was in his seventy-sixth year. It will be remembered a parsimonious old churl, called Jemmy Wood, of Gloucester, left his property, amounting, it was reported, to more than 400,000l., to the worthy Alderman. In some of the papers it is stated that the litigation to which this gave rise caused Sir Matthew to experience a degree of anxiety which is supposed to have shortened his life. If this be true, it gives additional weight to the burthen of the old song, “Why should we quarrel for riches?”

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“C.C.”—*Vermilion.*—Of this pigment there are two classes, one natural, and the other factitious. The former is found in silver mines, and is in the form of a red sand, which by repeated washing is made into the beautiful colour for which it is valued; the latter is made from an artificial cinnabar ground up with the whites of eggs, and dried into cakes. A very bad imitation is sold, made from red lead.

Answers to several correspondents are unavoidably postponed.

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